

Health Quality and Cost Council Medical Waste Work Group

Update
September 14, 2012

Composition

- Hospitals
- Managed care
- Home care
- Waste management industry
- Private practitioners
- Public health
- Environment

Work Group Charge

- The Work Group is charged with looking at mechanisms to reduce costs and improve quality associated with management of waste across the entire health care enterprise

Meetings

- Four meetings to date
- Review of industry segments and practices
- Definition of questions/challenges:
 - How much waste? Internal, external sources?
 - Legal/regulatory issues
 - Are there data on health impacts associated with exposures to waste?
 - Costs of waste management

Where Do We Want To Be?

- Looking at narrow time windows (1 year, 5 year)
- Where could we be?
 - Best practices
 - Feasibility
 - Barriers
 - Costs
- Improving data quality associated with waste management
- Report drafting started